GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2571
ANSWERED ON:30.08.2007
GAS AND OIL EXPLORATION IN HIMALAYAS
Dhumal Prof. Prem Kumar

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is now giving attention towards gas and oil exploration in the Himalayas because the analysis of the data collected from the Himalayas have made the scientists conclude that there are huge possibilities of finding petrol and gas in that area;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount of expenditure to be incurred thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) to (c) Currently, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) is holding two Petroleum Exploration Licenses viz. Kangra-Mandi and HF-ONN-2001/1 in the state of Himachal Pradesh in the northwestern Himalayan region to undertake exploration activities.

Exploration Block HF-ONN-2001/1 was awarded to M/s ONGC in 3rd round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP). Operator has carried out 245 Line km (LKM) of 2D, 100 sq km of geochemical survey and 124 sq. km of geological survey. Operator has made expenditure of US$ 7.41 million till March 2007.

A few more exploration blocks, has identified in Himalayan region in the state of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and foothill areas are likely to be offered in the forthcoming round of NELP.